

GOVERNOR KAINE PROPOSES NEW TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

In May, Governor Kaine introduced a new plan to provide additional funding for transportation needs that will promote safety, provide regional transportation funding and promote innovative solutions to Virginia's transportation challenges statewide. The plan will raise over \$1 billion in additional transportation funding by FY 2012.

To help address safety issues and highway maintenance, the plan dedicates one percent of the existing motor vehicle sales tax from the construction fund to highway maintenance and operations, increases the statewide

motor vehicle sales tax from three percent to four percent and increases the statewide annual vehicle registration fee from \$39 to \$49.

To address traffic congestion in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads regions, the plan calls for an increase

in the retail sales tax, excluding food and medicine, in both regions by one percent. In Northern Virginia, the revenues generated from the increase will be allocated to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for regional projects. In Hampton Roads, the revenues will be dedicated to seven critical regional projects.

Finally, the plan creates a Transportation Change Fund and increases the funding available for economic development, transit, rail and other initiatives such as commuter programs, and port and aviation investments. This new fund is intended to invest in transportation and economic development solutions that help the Commonwealth achieve environmental and energy goals. The Transportation Change Fund will be supported through a 25 cent increase in the statewide grantor's tax.

So, what does the proposed plan mean for rail and transit in the Commonwealth?

Overall, of the funds available in the Transportation Change Fund, 65 percent, or a net increase of \$70 million per year, will be dedicated to transit capital and operating funding. Similarly, 10 percent, or \$15.5 million, will be dedicated to rail investments.

Specific to Northern Virginia, of the funds generated by the one percent increase in retail sales tax, \$25 million will be allocated for Virginia Railway Express and \$50 million will be allocated as dedicated funding for the Metrorail system.

Governor Kaine called for a special session of the Virginia General Assembly, to convene on June 23, to discuss this package and to address the transportation needs in the Commonwealth. Visit www.transportation.virginia.gov for additional details.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the third issue of Connection, DRPT's new external newsletter. June 30 marks the end of the Commonwealth's fiscal year and with the end of the year approaching, our focus is turning

toward the completion of current initiatives and planning for the future. Transportation operators and DRPT are thinking about the past, present and future of transportation in Virginia and are working to identify ways to strengthen our transportation network.

The June issue of Connection provides updates on planning programs and new initiatives going into FY2009. In this issue, we've provided an update on Governor Kaine's innovative transportation plan for Virginia. You'll also read about DRPT's progress on Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plans and local planning initiatives to identify transit service improvements. You'll see how transportation industry representatives from across the Commonwealth are coming together to learn from each other and how DRPT is working with grantees to enhance Virginia's transit and rail programs. Finally, you will learn how transportation demand management agencies are getting creative to increase ridesharing program participation.

I hope you enjoy reading the third issue of Connection, and feel free to send us your business news for future issues at drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov.

PUBLIC BENEFIT MODEL TESTING IN JULY



DRPT is developing the Public Benefit Model to help demonstrate return on investment for public transportation and transportation demand management projects. DRPT will hold a workshop at its Richmond headquarters on July 8 to present the model, assumptions and data to grantees and other experts in the field of public benefit to receive feedback on the validity of the model. The meeting is open to DRPT grantees. Contact Courtney Ware at (804) 225-3746 for details.

FINAL ROUND OF HUMAN SERVICE WORKSHOPS

At the end of June, DRPT will complete the third and final round of human service transportation workshops. The workshops have helped transit providers comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements for federal New Freedom and Job Access and Reverse Commute grants. The first set of workshops helped human service operators identify gaps in service, the second round helped operators formulate strategies to overcome those gaps and the final round is helping operators develop locally coordinated human service mobility plans. These plans are nearing completion and will be available on the DRPT website soon.

RIDE MATCHING PROMOTION ON YOUTUBE

In the age of the Internet, RIDE Solutions is going high tech to reach customers. RIDE Solutions, the Roanoke and New River Valley region's commuter assistance program, has been using a YouTube channel to reach existing and potential customers. With the use of online video media, RIDE Solutions is able to market to more customers regarding their programs such as ridematching and Guaranteed Ride Home, promotions like Clean Commute Day and videos of commuting-related news stories. For links to all of the RIDE Solutions video channels, visit <http://www.ridesolutions.org>.

On
May 12,
the Federal Transit
Administration authorized
the Metropolitan Washington
Airports Authority to advance
Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor
Metrorail Project into the
Final Design stage of project
development. Visit www.dullesmetro.com for
details.

DRPT TRANSIT/TDM GRANTEE WORKSHOPS

In May, DRPT held a series of Transit/TDM Grantee Workshops to update grantees on various DRPT programs and policies and to provide an opportunity for information sharing and feedback. Topics of discussion included an overview of the grant application process, a review of grant procedures, an update on grant evaluation tools, an overview of the DRPT Dashboard and an update on statewide planning. DRPT also held training in April for TDM agencies to provide additional guidance on long term planning and how grantees can become more involved in the Metropolitan Planning Organization planning process. Materials from both sets of meetings are available by emailing drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov.

SIX YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SYIP) FINALIZED

DRPT gathered public comments on the draft Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for FY 2009-2014, made final edits and presented the program to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval this month. For fiscal years 2009 to 2014, \$1.8 billion is available for transit programs and \$260.6 million is available for rail programs. Highlights of projects included in the SYIP include additional funding for the construction of Norfolk's light rail transit system (The Tide), additional funding for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and planning funds for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Richmond. In addition, funding was recommended for the purchase of replacement buses and vans, the purchase of service expansion buses and vans, and the construction of or improvements to transit facilities throughout the Commonwealth. To review the plan visit www.drpt.virginia.gov/news/details.aspx.

DRPT PRESENTS DRAFT TRANSIT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



for the expenditure of transit funds to maximize return on investment while supporting improved land use and protecting the environment. It is designed

In May, DRPT presented the draft Transit Sustainability and Investment Policy to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and to DRPT grantees. The policy provides a framework

to support the Commonwealth's goal of increasing per capita transit ridership by emphasizing priorities such as the maintenance of existing assets, improved accountability and the implementation of transportation improvements based on specific performance measures. The policy is geared to improve coordination between the Commonwealth and local governments for designing, planning, funding, implementing and sustaining new transit services.

STATEWIDE PLANNING INITIATIVES UNDERWAY

DRPT has collected preliminary comments regarding priorities for inclusion in the Statewide Rail Plan and Statewide Transit Plan. Work underway for the Statewide Rail Plan includes data collection, analysis and development of the draft plan. The draft plan is scheduled to be completed this summer and DRPT will hold public meetings to discuss the draft plan and gather public comments. The next steps for the Statewide Transit Plan include initial meetings of the review teams that have been established to work with DRPT on

plan development. The Statewide Transit Plan is scheduled for completion in February 2009. DRPT will also develop a Statewide Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan. Elements of the statewide plans will be incorporated into VTRANS 2035, the Commonwealth's long-range transportation plan for all modes. Information on DRPT's planning efforts is available online at www.drpt.virginia.gov.



FEDERAL NEWS

- In 2007, legislation was introduced in the Senate regarding the reauthorization of Amtrak. In May 2008, similar legislation was introduced in the House. Issues under consideration for reauthorization include Amtrak's funding, size of network, competition for routes and restructuring. Pending legislation is being considered by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. Details can be found online at <http://transportation.house.gov>.
- The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has released its TransitVision 2050 Interim Report for review and comment. For the past year, APTA has been working with transportation industry leaders to form a vision of public transportation in

the future and the role that transit will play in our nation's metropolitan regions in 2050. The interim report is available at <http://blog.apta.com>. APTA invites all interested parties to review the report and provide comments.

- In April, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced it would provide \$18.9 million in FY 2008 federal funds in support of The Tide, Norfolk's new light rail project. The Tide received a federal full funding grant agreement in 2007 that included \$128 million in federal funds through 2010. The Commonwealth's contribution to the project will be approximately \$40 million. Learn more about the project at www.ridethetide.com.

CONNECTION



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DID YOU KNOW...

- Harrisonburg Transit was named the overall team winner for the 2008 Community Transportation Association of Virginia Driving Rodeo which took place on April 26 at Williamsburg Area Transport. Drivers from across Virginia participated in a driving obstacle course, wheelchair handling assessment and a short written test. To see a complete list of the 2008 results and to learn more about next year's event visit www.ctav.org/events.html.

- Charlottesville's Downtown Transit Station achieved gold level certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for New Construction from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- DRPT is developing Service Design Guidelines which will help local governments, transit providers and citizens better understand the types of transit systems and services that are available to meet community and regional transportation needs. The draft guidelines are scheduled to be published this summer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| 6/19 | Dump the Pump Day, Nationwide |
| 6/22-27 | APTA National Transportation Management Conference, Orlando, FL |
| 6/30 | Managing Generational Differences in the Workplace Training, Richmond, VA (Sponsored by DRPT) |
| 7/9 | DRPT Quarterly Transit/TDM Stakeholder Meeting, Richmond, VA |
| 7/10 | Rail Advisory Board Meeting, Richmond, VA |
| 7/11 | DRPT Quarterly Rail Stakeholder Meeting Richmond, VA |
| 7/16-17 | Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting Richmond, VA |
| 7/20 | WASHTO Annual Meeting, Portland, OR |
| 7/25 | NTI Terrorist Activity Recognition & Reaction—Train the Trainer Session, Williamsburg, VA (Sponsored by DRPT) |
| 8/5-7 | APTA State Public Transit Partnership Conference, Providence, RI |
| 8/12-14 | CTAV Annual Meeting, Roanoke, VA |